

WINES AND SPIRITS.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

BIRTH.

At Canton, on the 30th instant, the wife of
HERBERT DENT, of a son.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1895.

TELEGRAMS.

MORE TROUBLE IN BRAZIL.
LONDON, January 31st.
Daily demonstrations of the partisans of Marshal Peixoto in Rio Janeiro are causing much uneasiness, and troops have been called out. The situation is serious.

JAPANESE DEFEAT AT WAI-HEI-WAI.
The *Times* correspondent in Shanghai wires that the Chinese fleet at Wai-hei-wai has driven off the Japanese fleet, and that a land attack from Ninghai has been repulsed.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PW have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a memorial which is now being signed by the landlords of Hongkong and which will probably be forwarded to the Secretary of State by the Colonies by the next outgoing mail. This document, which the *Daily Press* cynically alludes to as already on its way to Downing Street, is far too lengthy to be published in *extenso* in these columns at the present time. The memorial contains an appeal for compensation for the loss of business and property losses which have been suffered through "petitioners' allege they have sustained by reason of the Government's action" of the Permanent Commission and illegal action" of the conciliating paragraph of the Sanitary Board. It is worthy that to the "the neglect of the Sanitary Board or both" was attributable the serious effects of the introduction of the bubonic plague from the mainland of China. The *Telegraph's* opinions on this subject are now well known to need reiteration here, suffice it to say that the "the neglect of the Sanitary Board or both" is not the cause of the plague and if there is no record here of the deadly disease of this year, the owners of the ships closed during last year's epidemic and the public health authorities may be thankful that the unwelcome visitor has not been got rid of so expeditiously and so cheaply.

the Newchwang season which, in the ordinary course of things, should open about six weeks earlier, is likely to turn out the worst on record in many a long year, owing to the interference with the trade of that well known market by the war and the presence of large Chinese and Japanese armies in the districts whence Newchwang derives her staple exports. It is probable, indeed, that, apart from the natural effects of an abnormal demand upon the resources of these Manchuria, which for months past has been undergoing an unprecedented and almost total destruction, the coming season will be very meagre owing to the exodus of the famine-stricken natives from the vast agricultural regions over which Chinese and Japanese armies are likely to try conclusions during the spring and summer of the current year. Granting that the summer turns out to be pretty near normal, the stability of the local freight market cannot be expected to be very seriously affected, nor for a large amount of surplus tonnage would be sent to Messrs. Lankester & Rogge very sensibly point out in their *twelfth Circular*, be thrown on this market with the inevitable result that freights would go to ruinously low rates. The effect on shippers at present interested in the southern China trade would not be felt for a few months more, for, most of their vessels have been chartered, for most of the length time-charters, and there are, however, some who might not be "the pinch" severely, and these remarks may come as a timely warning not to add to a careful survey of what may, metaphorically speaking, be termed breakers ahead.

GENERAL Sur, who commands the 2,000 men who have been sent to oppose the Japanese at Ninghsia, is to be well-known amongst foreigners in China. He saw a good deal of active service during the Mohammedan rebellion in the north-west provinces, where he obtained his Imperial Yellow Riding Jacket and Decoration of *Batura*, which corresponds to our V.C. His command goes by the name of the Sunguwa Brigade, the members of which are well drilled soldiers who served under him during the Mohammedan rebellion, and they have great confidence in their General. The theoretical strength of the Brigade was 6,000 men, but two-thirds of them have been transferred to Tientsin by the Viceroy Li to fill up the gaps made by the troops sent to Manchuria.

Private	Sir Knight J. Kirkwood,
Constable	J. Bryant,
Marshal	D. Macdonald,
Sub-Marshal	S. L. Darby,
Treasurer	J. W. Kinghorn,
Registrar	J. Dyer Ball,
Capt. of the Guard	P. R. Simmonds,
Almoner	F. D. Goddard,
Off. of Ceremonies	S. J. Hantsch,
Organist	P. W. Hall,
Guard	

At the close of the meeting the Sir Knights adjourned to the Hongkong Hotel to a banquet, at which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

[illegible]

WE REQUIRE AN ABLE SEAMAN.

cannot be truthfully affirmed that certain
odes in the representation of "Robinson Crusoe"
for instance, are "grandly comic." Mr. C. I.
for example, has a "get-it-up" which, viewed from
the point of view of a promisee than of a promiser,
it had led to tears but it was not so much
laughter, was a sight for the gods as a man
pulling a gas seal (a simple Polka measure)
from the grout of a water-buffalo.

D. Laprak was also more than amusing
in the irrepressible Mr. Brady, though
as much was expected, appeared as
powered by his own surroundings that at
drama and the next low down in front of
accepted as the comic song of the day.
The gentleman who represented *N. Y.*
(G. Balloch) was also exuberantly funny
his was of the wooden type which generates
induces even the most indulgent audience
stranges and other less sweet-amplified
as tokens of their—well, yes, apple

Ri.

gives a critic pleasure to be able to write approvingly and with approval of all who deserve it. And in last night's performance of "The Merry Widow" the two ladies engaged in a parts struggle hard to stem the tide of applause that was rushing in upon them, but they certainly did not allow themselves to be totally bestowed on their conscientious and unflinching efforts. The most talented professional singer in the world would fail to make a successful debut in the part of the "Grand Comtesse" if she were not assisted by the talents of Mrs. Brown and D. E. Brown. The latter two ladies, finding this impossible, try at least to outdo each other in the other members of the cast. Both Mrs. Brown, charmingly, and Mrs. Hagen are especially gratified on the good taste and good judgment displayed in playing a part that had been assigned to them. They are both anxious to recommend to the audience the excellent work of all her previous efforts. When Mrs. Brown is capable of doing histrionics, she will have to be afforded her the lady is so sure that she guards her some opportunity of acting. She is not at all bad at nothing very good and very look attractive, and she sings *very* to perfection.

no doubt afraid that the veteran Mr. C. H. Doubleday would fail to advance years and add adipose tissue, has lost that grip which three years ago made him one of the round actors in the colony. His Imperator *Smookey* last night was a long way from the grace of the *Smookey* of the past. Mr. Grace's best form, even although he had undepicted by a meaningless part. His lawlessness, together, for a broken policeman, on a stage, seemed to be a defect. He refrains from being hysterical. In his duet with *Purky* (Mrs. D. D. Mr. Grace sang with his customary good effect. As already indicated, Mr. in little rôle was a dismal and we regret to have to record

The skirt dancing was excellent, and the weak imitation of the *can-can* was not without considerable merit; but while disclaiming any intention to s-m-rs-one on the matter, the *Hong Kong Telegraph* questions the propriety of young clerics who are little more than children, being publicly flaunted in exhibitions of this character. The *Chinese Daily News* was most severely d-d-n-ced, especially for its Scotch article, (Miss Molly Alken's) and elicited a flood of expressions of approval from all parts of the house. The "March of all Nations" was picturesque, if at times a trifle tedious; but what it had to do with the "grand comic pantomime of 'Robinson Crusoe'" we are unable to fathom, and therefore was a sigh of relief all over the theatre when the curtain fell on the drear-est, and wear-est, most dismal show given under amateurish auspices in Hong Kong during the past nineteen years.

As it was the first night considerable allowance must, of course, be made for the stage management, which, however, left a good deal to be desired; and the scenery painted by Mr. M. A. Baptiste, about which so much had been reported, fell far short of general expectation. Though, we believe, no fault of the veteran artist. The O. Orange conducted in his very best style, and was most ably backed up by Mr. George Grumble at the piano and the excellent Band of the Rifle Brigade. Mr. H. E. Denson manipulated the limelight with conspicuous effect, and Mr. H. W. Bird is entitled to a special recognition for the taste displayed in designing the center.

The next performance will be given on Monday the 4th February.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE."

Only a fair-sized audience assembled at the City Hall last evening to greet the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club in their first performance of the "Grand Comic Pantomime of Robinson Crusoe." The greater part of the audience consisting of gentlemen, as is generally the case, were disappointed to find that the ladies were to appear in the last act. We have planned to discover the ladies as well. We have known to see the "anti-theatricalism" of a professional company is due to their fear of being shocked at a perhaps immoderate show of ankle on the part of a vivacious chorus girl, or of high kicking throwing her dainty too a little too much. There can be no cause to dread any unusual display of the new style, and, indeed, we were greatly disappointed to find, however, and were only too pleased to see a little activity and liveliness infused into some of the dancers, and as their dresses were appropriately full and skirt-like they admitted of a little extra display in the "high-kicking" line, which was very welcome.

The dresses, scenery and staging were not up to general expectation, and the performance as a whole took more after the style of a variety show than of a pantomime, consisting mostly of songs and dances, with an occasional scrap of dialogue wedged in between. A little more dialogue appertaining to the plot (if any) would have added interest to the story, and proved a relief from the continued monotony of song and dance.

The scenery was very mediocre, a very curious effect being produced in a "Street in Hull," when Mrs. Crissie (Mr. Brady) appeared to be looking over the top of a four-storied house to ascend on to the back-yard. Scene II was a wretchedly supposed to represent Crispy's bedroom, a whitewashed room with a portmanteau, and some cooie vases for Crispy's wardrobe. We felt quite sorry for Mrs. Crispy having to sweep round such a wretched room in a dingy white dressing gown; and was hardly the place for a little nymph to execute a charming *garde-dans*. Scene III was indeed a desert island as portrayed at night. Instead of bilbois, rippling water, and meadows, and foliage of every hue, the painter had substituted a few green trees, so many of them being of the same shade of green, and called it Crispy's island. In Scene V—"The Golden Reef"—a subject which would afford ample scope to the imagination of an artist—there was a landscape with some dark-looking trees and black-looking rocks, outlined with blue, apparently stuck on at the

There was plenty of dancing of all kinds, but nothing new or original, the most successful being the skirt dance at the opening of the second act, and the Highland Fling just before the "March All Nations."

The March was the redeeming feature of the whole performance; but even this—well-executed it was—called upon us after witnessing it in the last two pantomimes.

The dresses were certainly not of an elaborate description, the only may perhaps be due to the fact in which they were worn. There is an interesting dress, and where one woman would wear a dress, a queen in a cotton gown, others did not change in appearance even were they dressed in grandeur. The dresses were very capable last night, the few who showed the best advantage being the representatives of Spain, America, Germany, Canada, and the "English Girl" in a dainty and elegant dress of white satin and falling in a long, flowing ruffle. The ruffle-looking English rose, with a long, flowing ruffle, was really "and to look upon" the young rose-looking members of the company should have been chosen to represent the "English Girl". The Spanish Signora, in a dress of white satin and black and white stripes, did all just as well as the "English Girl". The Canadian Signora, in a dress of white satin and black and white stripes, did all just as well as the "English Girl". The German Signora, in a dress of white satin and black and white stripes, did all just as well as the "English Girl".

Of the gentlemen we can only mention General von Meyner, Russia and the English Sailor; the rest simply shuffl'd on and off like so many Pouter-Cat Canal "navvies."

We noticed the entire absence of interest on the part of the chorus in the performance, and the awful "woodenness" of the ladies; in the opening chorus especially they looked quite foolish in their extreme awkwardness and stiffness. Some of the chorus ladies brightened up towards the finish, but this was only to begin with; glancing and bawling those who were trying to pull through with as good grace as they could assume under very trying circumstance.

**BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN
AGENCY, LIMITED.**

The above is the style under which a new and useful enterprise is about to be established in the Far East. The prospect is bright and the future is bright. The Directors of Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited, has been registered in London under the Companies Act with a capital of £10,000 in 10,000 ordinary £1 shares. The capital necessary to list the Company and render it a "going concern" has already been subscribed in England, but a limited number of shares have—and we can see through the sound common-sense and business acumen of the Directors—that the Directors, in applying this policy—been reserved for Far Eastern subscribers. The management of the business in Hongkong will be controlled by a local Advisory Board, and in addition to the manifest advantages of such an arrangement, the Directors have secured several very important sole agencies of well known special ties which will be worked in conjunction with Messrs. Bell's popular manu-

Judging by the terms set forth in the prospectus the general good faith with the public which the Advisory Board ensures, the high reputation which Bell's materials enjoy the world over and the ever-increasing demand for the same, it appears beyond question that there is ample room for an undertaking of this kind in the Far Orient. And the only wonder is that such a company was not floated long ago.

The capital of the Company, although comparatively small, appears to us quite ample enough for the accomplishment of the objects in view and may also prove sufficient for the gradual extension of the business in all its branches. When we call to mind the remarkable success of the parent Company, if we may use the term, a few years ago we are bound to take it for granted that those who believe the new concern will yield handsome profits for the shareholders are not indulging in the dangerous pastime of building "castles in the air," or anything half so unsatisfactory.

Messrs. Bells' specialties are far too well known to need elaboration here. It is generally acknowledged that the quality of their goods is unequalled in the trade, and all their manufactures bear the imprint of their trade mark, which is at once an advertisement and a guarantee that they are absolutely genuine.

The representative of the new Company, whose prospectus will shortly be published *in extenso* has taken temporary offices at No 24, Queen's Road Central, but we understand that more suitable premises will shortly be obtained.

It is stated in the prospectus that (a) this Company has been formed to acquire and work the sole Agency in China, Japan and the Straits Settlements of Bell's Asbestos Company, Ltd., of London, the well-known manufacturers of asbestos in all the forms employed among the users of steam and electricity; also of Bell's Asbestos Lubricant and all kinds of steam packings and engine-room requisites. (b) A contract, dated 27th November, 1894, has been entered into between Bell's Asbestos Company, Limited, of London, of the one part, and Mr. F. A. Weylan of the other part, whereby the exclusive right

senation of Bell's Asbestos Company, Limited, in China, Japan, and the Straits Settlements, is secured to this Company for a period of fifteen years, on terms which place them far above the competition of any others in the East. The agreement also contains equitable provisions for renewal, and a contract with Mr. F. A. Weylan as to the formation of the Company.

Taken as a whole the undertaking leaves nothing to be desired; the undertaking is solid and sound, and should appeal as really to ship-owners, engineers and the trading public generally. As an investment these appears every reason to expect a handsome return for many outlay. We are glad to number Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency as a useful addition to our local enterprises.

CHINKIANG NOTES

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)
CHINKIANG JANUARY 1941

Hundreds of war pictures are being sold on the streets of Chinkiang. There are about twenty different kinds distributed, and they represent, *à la Chinoise*, and other noted engagements. Of course, the Chinese always win. One scene shows what disposal the Chinese make of their prisoners—some of whom are carried head downwards on poles, others in cages, to the execution ground to suffer martyr's decapitation. The discouraging feature of such pictures is that nearly all Chinese applaud the sentiment, the general opinion of the people is that the pictures represent facts, and thus the diffusion of general literature is merry on, China gaining immeasurable victories (on paper), whilst Japan is making plans in reference to her Society for the

A large delegation of country people recently arrived to the magistrate's office to consider the imposition of taxes. The magistrate took the ground that these ought to be levied, considering the fact of the drought. The *hsien* might otherwise, and a vociferous contest ensued. In the midst of the logomachy, two highly leading men were seized, bamboodged, and imprisoned in the rest decamped. Upon the magistrate's sending down orders to the villages, and other quarrel occurred, and the people were torn and the herchemen and held them as hostages for urance vile. The upshot of the whole matter the words of a native: "*Pah sing ao won*," which means "All right, you have the right now, now you just wait till we people get chance, eh, my!"

The local authorities forbade the 'ep ture of the kitchen god on the 24th of the Chinese month, and many of the people were obliged to forego the pleasure of *sung tiao*. The reason for the prohibition is the carelessness of the people with fire and fireworks.

The custom of the worship, as, e.g., above sero, is a fine present for the deity.

